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PAGE 01 STATE 103246 TOSEC 110331

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 103246 TOSEC 110331

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM ALGIERS DTD 29 APR 1976 QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 1095

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EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN ATTITUDES AS REPORTED BY JOSEPH KRAFT

- 1. COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT VISITED ALGIERS APRIL 15-24 IN
 CONNECTION WITH PIECE HE IS DOING FOR NEW YORKER. WAS RECEIVED
 BY NUMBER LEADING ALGERIANS, INCLUDING BOUMEDIENE, MINISTER
 OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY ABDESSELAM AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE
 YAKER. HE CAME WITH SEVERAL IDEAS IN MIND WHICH HE WISHED
 TO PRUSUE. ONE OF THEM WAS THAT ALGERIA HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY
 ACTIVE IN THIRD WORLD BECAUSE REVOLUTION WAS FALTERING.
 ANOTHER WAS THAT ALGERIA HAD BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN
 OPEC KIDNAPPING, WHICH IT SAW AS MEANS PUTTING PRESSURE ON
 LESS RADICAL MEMBERS THAT ORGANIZATION.
- 2. WE WISH TO FLAG TWO ASPECTS HIS CONVERSATION WITH CONFIDENTIAL $\,$

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PAGE 02 STATE 103246 TOSEC 110331

ABDESSELAM. FIRST, HE FOUND ABDESSELAM IN ANTI-AMERICAN

MOOD, COMPLAINING ABOUT U.S. SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO IN SAHARA CONTEST IN SPITE MODERATE ROLE ALGERIANS HAD PLAYED IN CIEC AND MIDDLE EAST, AND IN SPITE ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF BUSINESS THROWN OUR WAY. ABDESSELAM SAID AT ONE POINT LEAST WE COULD DO WAS TO MAKE PRONOUNCEMENT IN SUPPORT PRESENT DEMARCATION LINE AS FINAL BORDER BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. THIS IS FIRST TIME, TO OUR RECOLLECTION, IDEA OF SUCH A DECLARATION HAS SURFACED. IMAGINE ABDESSELAM WAS SPEAKING OFF THE CUFF, BUT HIS REMARK IS WORTH NOTING AS REFLECTION LOCAL CONCERNS, INFORMED OR OTHERWISE, THAT WE MAY SUPPORT MOROCCAN DESIGNS ON ALGERIAN TERRITORY.

3. SECOND, HE ASKED ABDESSELAM IF ALGERIANS CONNECTED WITH OPEC KIDNAPPING. ABDESSELAM REPLIED TO EFFECT THAT ANYONE WHO WITNESSED EFFORTS ALGERIANS MADE AND PROBLEMS THEY HAD SAVING LIVES WOULD KNOW THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE HAD ANY ROLE IN AFFAIR, EVEN THOUGH CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED ALGERIAN "GROUPS" MIGHT HAVE BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO OPERATION. KRAFT SAYS HE STRUCK BY FACT THIS WAS ONLY PARTIAL DENIAL BY ABDESSELAM AND IS PERSUADED THAT ALGERIANS WERE INVOLVED. WE HAVE TOLD HIM WE THINK THAT HIGHLY UNLIKELY, AND SO HAVE NUMBER OF WELL-INFORMED ALGERIANS. HE OBVIOUSLY HAS HIS MIND SET ON HIS HYPOTHESIS, HOWEVER, PERHAPS RELYING ON INFORMATION GIVEN TO HIM BY PERSONS OUTSIDE ALGERIA (THE MOROCCANS?) AND WHICH HE THINKS IS RELIABLE. WE PRESUME HE WILL WRITE ACCORDINGLY. PARKER UNOTE SISCO

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